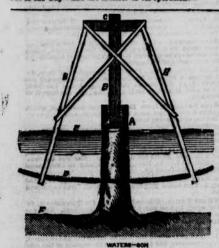
of Jordan."
The sag of the saw gives the correct arc of the circle.
At each end of the saw a rope thirty feet in length is
fastened and carried to boats upon which mea are stationed. Ten men man and work each rope.
When the saw runs right we have cut off a stump two
feet in diameter in fourteen minutes. Often it pinched
and ran crooked; then a gang would be two or three
hours on one of the same size. If there happened to be
any brush under water it added much to the labor; it all
had to be fished up and got out of the way.
Below I give you a rough sketch of the stump cutting
machine—the tree having been first felled and cleared
out of the way—and the manner of its operation:—



A—Stump of tree.

B and C—Plank fastened upon the stump, in which a vot is set for the saw frame to work upon. D—Saw. B—Water line.

F-Bottom. HH-Frame of saw. The Next Point of Attack on the Mis-

We have no knowledge of any formidable works of the enemy on the Mississippi river between Island No. 10 and Fort Randolph, which will probably be the next place that will command the attention of Commodore Foote,

Fort Randolph, which will probably be the next place that will command the attention of Commodore Foote, with his fleet of gun and mortar boats.

Fort Randolph is on the east bank of the Mississppi river, near the town of Randolph, Tipton county, Tenn., about sixty miles above Memphis, one hundred and sixty below Columbus, and one hundred and eighty below Cairo. The position is naturally a strong one. The fort as a rough and incomplete earthwork, constructed last fail. It is built upon the Second Chickasaw bluffs, more than one hundred feet above the river, and immediately south of Island No. 34. The lower part commands the three mouths of the Hatchie river, that empties into the Mississippi just above the town of Randolph, at the upper edge of the bluffs. These bluffs form natural parapets of batteries, and, at this point, command a view of the Mississippi river for six miles each way. Our iron-clad gunboats, however, by silencing whatever guns may be piaced on Island No. 34, might enter the northers mouth of the Hatchie out of the range of Fort Randolph. The town of Randolph, near which the fort stands, consists of half a dozen or so dispidated frame houses, and is approached in the rear by several good reads; but the country behind it, being full of ravines and gorges, is capable of being fortified to an almost indefinite extent. The position, however, is really of no manner of use or benefit, except to dispute the navigation of the river. It has no railroad communication, and as an army stationed there would have to depend upon the river sexclusively for the transportation of supplies, it would not require leng to cut it off and starve it out.

IMPORTANT NAVAL CAPTURES.

Prizes Captured by the South Atlantic

WARHINGTON, April 14, 1862. commodore Dupont reports to the Navy Department for date of April 6, that the schooner Julia Warder and schooner Lydia and Mary, were captured in Cape Rowan Passage, between the Santee river and Charles ton—the first on the 27th and the second on the 29th ultimo—by the United States armed bark Restless, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant E. Conway commanding. Thei argoes were rice and corn meal

He also reports that the ship Emily St. Pierre, of Charleston, from Calcutta, was captured on the 18th ult. by the blockading squadron, while steering directly for Charleston harbor. Her cargo consisted of 2,173 of gunny cloth. Commander Goldsborough sent her to Philadelphia for adjudication. Most of her cargo went North in the steamer Oriental, which left Port Royal on

The English sloop Coynell, of Nassau, N. P., was cap tured by the Susquehanna, Captain Lardner, on the morn-morning of the 3d inst., about two miles from Charleston bar. She had a cargo suitable for and in great demand n a Southern port. Gaptain Lardner sent her to Phila delphia for adjudication. Another schooner was rur where by the blockading vessels on Sullivan's Island,

Valuable Prizes Captured in Great Yco-

Rieutenant Commanding, reached this port this morning having with her the schooner Pride, previously noticed a schooner Pride, previously noticed as being captured; and the sloops Wren and Velma, both of Great Ycomico river, western shore of Virginia, also

The Hercules left this port a short time since, towing down the lightship, which had been previously fitted up for the tail of the Borse Shoe Shoal. After this Lieu enant Dungan cruised in the vicinity of Smith's Jeland and succeeded in capturing the scheoners Whig and Pride. He then placed on board the latter Lioutenant J. G. Baker, with an armed crew, who, on Friday night observed in Cager's Straits, off Fog Island light, the sloop Wren; and after a chase of two hours the latter run ashore at Shark's Point by her crew, wh escaped. The sloop was immediately boarded, but no goods er cargo of any description were found in her. In the stove were found the remnants of certain papers which had been partially burned, among them a license to trade, signed by the Clerk of Northumberland county

and on Sunday a sail was noticed about six miles of steering directly for the steamer, which, at the moment was anchored. The steamer immediately got under weigh and proceeded towards the vessel—the captain of ich, on perceiving the Hercules, changed his course and endeavored to effect his escape. After a chase of half an hour the Hercules came up to the vessel, which proved to be the sloop Velma, having on her stern the same of "Bridgetown," but hails from Great Ycomic civer, in Western Virginia. Possession was taken of her together with the captain, Samuel D. Lankford, of Grea Annemsin, and crew, with five passengers from Rich mond. One of the latter was a captain in the rebel army searching the Velma there was found a large mai containing about 200 letters, a number of which were ad dressed to persons in Baltimore, and a large number to persons in various parts of the State of Maryland. O searching the crew there were also found \$2,000 in Vir-ginia bank notes. The Veima had, some time previously been cleared from this port for Pokomoke Sound, with a cargo consisting of provisions of various kinds. This cargo, instead of being discharged in a Maryland port, was taken over to Great Ycomico river, and there discharged within the boundaries of Virginia. The sleep in ballast, was coming back to get a new cargo.

The rebel captain, previous to being captured, burned his commission in the fire, remnants of which being found among the ashes, he acknowledged the fact, and also that he had been engaged in the battle at Managaar Lankford, the captain, is part owner of the vessel, and has been engaged in this contraband trade for five

The presengers and crew were all, with those expured a few days since by the Reliance, given in charge f Colonat Morris, at Fort McHarry.

The following is a list of the passengers on board the

John G. Little, of New York, Joseph C. Wilson, late a norchant of Baltimore; John Harkey, late of the house of T. T. Martin, of Baltimore; George McCaffrey, of Baltimore, and H. A. Breckey, a. son. of Prof. N. C. Brooks, of Estimore, a captain in the rebei army. The crew are:—faptain Samuel D. Lankford, Robert H. Crewell, Samuel Saners and I. J. Whittington, willo is part owner.

John F. M. Jillton, Esq., auresyor of this port, went an beard and succeeded in fluding the mails and money.

Discharge of the Captured Prisoners.

BALTIMORE, April 14, 1862 The passengers taken on board the Velma were take before the United States Marshal to-day, and, strange to say, have all even released. Some of them profess that they were ignorant of the character of the resset.

THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN.

SKIRMISHING ALL ALONG THE LINES.

Interesting Details from Our Correspondents in the Field.

Immense Strength of the Rebel Defences.

&c.,

Our Army Correspondence. WARWICH COURT HOUSE, VA., April 10, 1862.

The Position of the Army—The Activity of the Enemy—
Number of Batteries Daily Discovered—Analety of the
Federal Troops for the Attack—Frash Meat for the Army—
Entent of Our Pickets—The Robel Gunboat Teaser—Popularity of General McClettan with His Officers—Reinforcements for the Enemy of Army

nts for the Enemy, de., de.

There has been no change in our position since my last. It continued to rain hard all day yesterday and last night, and one can form an conception of the depth of the mud, unless they chanced to visit Virginia during the latter part of the winter. The experience of the army thus far on the "sacred soil" has been anything but a pleasant one. In the meantime we amuse ourselves by watching the enemy and dedging their shells, which they throw every time and dodging their shells, which they throw every time they can see a small group. Our men are not permitted to return the fire. The rebels have wasted a large quantity of ammunition upon us, and thus far with little damage. If we remain much longer in this mud hole we shall lose more men from disease than we would by storming their batteries at the point of the bayonet.

Every day our men discover new batteries, but what number of guns they have we cannot ascertain with river, besides some they are said to have back of these, and they undoubtedly have a large force to defend them. A prisoner taken yesterday says that fourteen rebels were killed by a shell from one of our guns on Saturday, and we could distinctly see them carrying off men on stretchers during the engagement.

Our men are impatient to be at them, and can hardly

We received yesterday the first instalment of fresh beef, consisting of one hundred head of splendid castle, and more are on the way.

Licutenant Samuel J. Smith, Adjutant of the Second Rhode Island regiment, has been attached to the staff of

our General as chief commissary, which will insure our being well provided with provisions in future. Several Southern gentry have come in and taken the oath of allegiance, and requested our General to place a "safeguard" over their property, which was being appropriated by our troops. I believe their request has been granted in every instance, although I think the loyalty of some of them is very questionable. One of them has five sons in the rebel army. He tells the same old story of being a Union man, and that his sons were

orced into the army. Our pickets extend down as far as the James river near the residence of a man by the name of Young. His residence was the probable headquarters of one of the rebel generals, as a rebel flag was flying there when our forces advanced, and any quantity of empty bottles were lying about loose, which is a sure sign. He was very wealthy, and his grounds are laid out with much taste. He was the owner of a hundred negroes, and also of "Young's mill," which was surrounded by fortifications,

nd which we captured. The rebels came down with a steamboat to the wharf near his residence and took him away with all his effects. The rebel gunboat Teazer keeps a constant watch on our movements, moving backward and forward in the James river, near the mouth of the Warwick. Whenever she catches a glimpse of our pickets, she runs up and salutes them with a few shells. She is a small boat, and carries only one gun that we can discover. It would be well for some of our gunboats to teach her better

A messenger has just arrived from Newport's News with the Herald containing the account of our glorious victory at Pittsburg and the surrender of Island No. 10 The news spread like wildfire, and every one was eager to secure a copy, but there were only enough to supply a few of the officers.

obliged to read aloud to a crowd of delighted listeners, and the rejoicing was kept up till a late hour of the night. The officers under General McClellan, from the highest to the lowest, love and respect him, and will follow him to the cannon's mouth or in leaving the management and command of the army to the abolition generals, who, instead of taking the field and fighting the battles of the Union in person, have remained valuantly at home, criticising the actions of those who have stake their lives and fortunes in defence of the constitution and the Union.

As pear as can be ascertained, the force opposed to us at this point is 43,000, and they are being constantly reinforced. General Peck discovered the camp fires of eight them cheer upon the arrival of every new regiment

An Aerial Voyage Extraordinary—The Course of the Bal-loca—It Drifts Towards the Enemy's Lines—Perilous Po-Mind-Rapidity of His Descent-Reconnaissance by Gene ral Jameson-An Infernal Machine-The Enemy Busy or Their Intrenchments—Tents for the Troops, dc., dc.
The exciting event of the day has been a balloon reco

larger magnitude than was intended. At five o'cloc Lowe's balloon. He supposed the usual number of ropes were attached to it, whereas there was enly one, and place in this, as was afterwards ascertained, had been burned by vitriol, used in generating gas. Taking his in the car, unaccompanied by any one, the was let out to nearly its full length— length is about nine bundred yards when suddenly snap went the cord and up went the bal loon. This was an unexpected part of the programme.

The men below looked up with astonishment, and the General looked down with equal bewilderment

"Open the valve," shouted one of the men below. "I'll manage it," responded the General.

Up went the balloon, higher, higher. It rose with great rapidity; its huge form lessened as it wildly mounted that the regions of the upper air; it became a speck in the eky. The wind was taking it in the direction of the enemy's territory. By this time every staff officer and hundreds of others were looking at the moving speck. It s impossible to describe the anxiety felt and expressed for the fate of him, the central object of thought, in that far away moving speck, every moment becoming less visible. It is seen to move in our direction; the counts nances of our men brighten with hope. It passes over our heads. Soon it begins to descend, but with a rapidity that arouses renewed apprehension. Quickly a squad of cavairy, led by Captain Locke, Lieutenant McQoade, of the General's staff, plunge spurs into their horses and dash away in the direction of the descending balloon.

The rest of the story is as I received it from the General's own lips. While the rope was being played out he adjusted his glass in readiness for his proposed view of the enemy's terri-tory. A sudden bound of the balloon told him in a moment that the rope had given way. He dropped his glass, heard the call, "Open the valve," made the response given above, and set about looking for the valve. He was sensible of being flighty (the General valve. He was scalars to being agany (she deberal leves a pun as well as the next one), but was not at all nervous. He saw the wind had taken him over the line of the rebel intrenchments. Having no wish to drop in among them he let the valve take care of itself, and proceeded to take advantage of his position to note the aspect of rebet objects below. Crowds of soldiers rushed from the woods, and he heard their shouts dis-tinctly. Luckily he was above the reach of their bullets, so he was not afraid on this score. The map of the leta, so he was not afraid on this score. The map of the country was distinctly discernable. He saw York town and its works, York river and its windings, and Norfolk and its smoking chimneys. A counter current of air struck the balloon, and its course was reversed. Its retreat from over reboldom was rapid. He opened the valve, the gas escaped, and down be came. He could not ray how fast he came down, but it was with a rapidity he would not care to have repeated. The car struck the top of a shelter tent—under which, luckity, no one happened to be at the time—knocked the tent into pi, and left him enveloped

in a mass of collapsed oil silk. He crawled out, and

ound himself in the middle of a camp, not one hundred ods from General McClellan's headquarters.
"I came mounted, you see," was his remark to Ge

forns, who was about the first man by his side. He gave the details of his aerial voyage to Gen. Burns, who seeing the opportunity of getting off a joke, could not lose the "You are a suspicious character," remarked General

"How so?" asked General Porter. "in the space of balf an hour you have been taken up by a balloon and arrested by a shelter tent." "And you have come down safe, I see," broke in Cap tain Locke, before the laughter at General Burns' duet of puns; "I came with this cavalry company to lock you

"You ought to have sent flying artillery after me," re-

General Jameson, accompanied by the Sixty-third consylvania regiment, came near having a bloody ren with some of the enemy in a rec nce. Going down the Warwick road, half a m com their encampment, taking a road at right angles adding through a piece of woods three-quarters of a mile from their end further, and thence mounting the brow of a hill, they suddenly came upon some rebel earthworks, two hundred yards in advance. The rebels opened a fire of musketry behind these works, firing about one hundred and fifty shots. Our men responded, and they fired a second vol-ley, with a like return on our part; after which our men retired, seeing the inequality of the contest, from the contion and vastly superior numbers of the enemy. We lost one man killed, Sergeant David Irvin, Company F. What effect our shots had upon the enemy we had no means of telling. Our officers and mean were perfectly cool under the fire, and retired in perfect order.

If satanic smartness can be of any service to the enemy in killing off our troops, they are not wanting in the arti-cle. To-day a large shell was picked up by Majer Scharff of the Thirteenth New York Volunteers, evincing a cli max of diabolical intent on the part of the rebels surpass ing any prior revelation in this line. As the shell had no exploded it was deemed prudent to handle it cau-tiously. It proved to be an infernal machine of the first water. The top of the plunge xtending beyond the surface more than is usual excite way, by unscrewing the plunger, the contents were re moved by loosing the casing. This mode of unloading de veloped the fact that between the plunger, containing the cap and the plate on which it strikes, cotten had been introduced, thus preventing concussion and con-sequent explosion when the shell struck the ground. On he side of the plunger a place had been filed in and filled with matches, communicating with the powder, so that by unscrewing the former the matches would be ignited by the friction, causing the shell to explode. Who will not say that this was an infernal machine of the first water, and that the foiling of the enemy in their diabolical pur. some was most fortunate? I need not add that our men i have received a lesson whose teaching is not likely to be neglected in future. A word more about shells. One was ought to-day to General Porter's headquarters that had en thrown by a mortar. It was a big fellow, no less than eleven inches in diameter. Itstruck about fifty yards from Allen's battery, burying itself six feet in the ground. Fortunately its contents fizzed out before striking, so that no damage was done.

A repetition of the cheering heard several mornings nce behind the enemy's intrenchments occurred this sorning. This fact, and hearing the moving of cars at all hours of the night, induces belief that there have been new arrivals of reinforcements. Our skirmishers and pickets say that the rebels are still busy, day and night, on their intrenchments, making them stronger Each day shows new guns mounted. One of the army signal corps, whose glasses are the most perfect of any we have, tells me that from their position, which is on a light promontery at our right, jutting out into th York river, he counted to-day sixty three cannon on the enemy's work. His view embraced only the intrench

nents on the enemy's left.

General McClellan and staff occupy tents, the Sibley tent being in the ascendency. Our gallant leader has now literally taken the field. The troops are impatient to

The Fourth Michigan regiment, Colonel Woodbury which has occupied the advance in Howard's brigade nd has been exposed more than any other regiment the field, and conducted itself with heroic gallantry, reseived to-day a supply of the D'Arllay shelter tents The boys are jubilant over this needed auxiliary to their comfort. Their unmurmuring endurance of over three without fires in a cheerless wood, and nearest to the enemy's front and their storm of shells, has shown that they are made of the right kind of stuff. It is such men that will fight our battles, win our victories and make

As far as patient endurance of rain and cold and absence of fire goes, and but little less danger of shells, the Fourteenth regiment, N. Y. V., Colonel McQuade Sixty-second Pennsylvania, Colonel Black, and Ninth usetts, Colonel Cass, deserve, too, the highest meed of praise. Their General has reason, in the progress of this advance thus far, to be proud of his brigade—as proud of it, in fact, as the regiments are proud of him-Notwithstanding the exposure, however, to which the regiments have all been exposed, the Brigade Surgeon informed me to-day that when called on to make out a list ere only five requiring to be sent there.

CAMP IN FRONT OF YORKTOWN, April 11, 1862. Reirmich With the Ememy—The Deadly Effect of Our Sharpshooters' Rifles—Operations of Our Troops to Repel the Enemy—Prospects at One Time of a General Engagement—Gallantry of the Pederal Troops—Names of the Killed and Wounded—Losses of the Rebels, &c., &c.

This afternoon we had a slight skirmish with th nemy. During the morning the rebels had been throwing an occasional shell-towards our encampments. without any injury whatever. Their outposts kept haame time there was great activity manifested in their atreachments. A new rebel regiment was seen going nto the work on the left. About one e'clock in he afternoon they made an attack on our pickets a had one man killed-private E. L. Crow, Sixty-fire uent attacks, and burned several buildings between our nes and their fortifications. They had evidently become casperated because our sharpshooters had been picking off so many of their men, and so they determined to make some demonstration. When word was sent to General Hamilton that the enemy was advancing on ou left, he had the brigades in his division immediatel formed in line, and the artillery in position in the rear eneral Jameson was ordered forward with his remain ing regiments to support the other regiment, which was

Information was soon received that our pickets has enten back the enemy on the left, but that he was ad vancing on our centre. While troops were going to their assistance it was accertained that they were able to old their position. Then the enemy was pressing our left again, and General Hamilton ordered Gen. Jameson to despatch two regiments to that locality. Two regi ments were immediately on the march across the pla teau. Presently General Hamilton told General Jameson to take his other regiment and assume command of the whole line in support of the pickets, which be did sucwoods which skirt the Warwick read, from which the rebel batteries are visible. The Fifty-seventh Pennsyl vania, Colonel Campbell, and Eighty-seventh New York, Colonel Dodge, were deployed on the line of the same road under cover of the woods. General Jameson then dismounted and made a personal reconneciseance of our jine to the left. He evidently soon became convinced that the pickets were able to hold their ground, and that the enemy intended a demonstration somewhere else Shortly a sharp fusilade of musketry was heard, and their followed several well fired volleys to the right, which indicated that that was the place where the rebels in theoters and some of our pickets of the Sixty-third wer, driven in. The rebels were advancing, firing sharply regiment was ordered down the Yorktown turnpike in double quick. Six companies filed off into the woods to the left, and four companies, besded by Colonel Campbell, dashed down the road to meet the rebels. At sigt of our men the rebels ran out of the road upon which they were advancing, and sought shelter in the peach orchard and along a road to the left. There were six or seven hundred of the enemy. Volley succeeded velley and there was every indication of a hot engagement ordered down as a reserve. The firing became general for half an hour or more, when the rebels were beaten back, retiring, however, in good order. They burned a

house near the turnpike, and several other buildings further to the left. During this time the rebels continued to throw sho and shell over from their river works around the town and their outer chain of earthworks; but none of our men were injured by them. The air resounded with the booming of the cannon, the bursting of shell and the rear musketry. A section of Weeden's battery, under

Lieutenant Clark, was placed in the field, and fired about forty rounds at the rebels. Our shells, as well as our ullets, did great execution among them. It is believed that at least twenty were killed and wounded. After the aring ceased, the rebels were heard in the peach orchard carrying off their killed and wounded. The Sixty-third regiment had two men killed altogether and one woundd, and the Fifty seventh four wounded.

The pickets of the Twelfth New York regiment, in General Butterfield's brigade, General Porter's division who were under command of Major Barnard, stood their ground firmly, and drove back a regiment of rebels which was advancing on the extreme right. The rebels carried seven of their killed and wounded off the field on stretchers, and later in the evening returned with a ambulance for the remainder. The Twelfth regiment was highly complimented for their gallant conduct.

The following is a list of the casualties:-

KILLED. Eliphalet Crow, Company K, Sixty-third Peansylvania by a balt on the top of the head. Joseph Thompson, Company A, Sixty-third Pennsyl rania, by a ball in the cheek

WOUNDED. Thomas Bronks, Sixty-third Pennsylvania, slightly, it

The following are the wounded in the Fifty-seventh re-Sergeant Mervin, Company E, slightly, in the thigh.

Corporal Parks, Company E, slightly. Sergeant Cochrane, Company F, slightly, in the knee. Corporal McKnight, Company B, slightly.

Several soldiers had their clothes perforated by bul ets, but escaped injury themselves. A bullet passed round the back of private Westcott, Company B, Fifty seventh regiment, entering at one shoulder and running cound underneath his coat, coming out at the other Private Bell, Company E, had a builet pass through his sleeve. Corporal Drake, Company I, had some of the pany A, was struck by a spent ball. Sergeant Bush, Company C, Sixty-third regiment, whose pantaloons were rolled up at the bottom, found that a rebel bullet had

mased through them, cutting the folds. At twilight the firing had ceased. The Sixty-third was relieved by two regiments from another brigade, and eneral Jameson returned to camp with his troops.

The Rebels at Fredericksburg-Headquarters, Camp Near Presencessurg, } March 16, 1862. } Soiders—In assuming the command of the third brigade, Aquia district, I congratulate myself that I have control of men who, by their good conduct and soldierly bearing, will illustrate the virtues and patriotism of the noble State they represent.

control of men who, by their good conduct and sodierly bearing, will illustrate the virtues and patriotism of the noble State they represent.

Our recent reverses will not cause this command to despond. We will not despair of the confederacy. Our camp is near the tomb of "Marry, the mother of Washington," and you will baptize in heroic blood the sod consecrated by so many historical traditions, before you will consent to see it deflied by the step of the Vandals. Your own homes have been invaded. The Hermitage, with the tomb of Jackson, is held by the enemy. They must and shall be driven back. This is a part of your holy mission. Do not be discouraged. Our cause is just, and God will smile upon it. Hersafter, in the honorable old age of those of you who survive, you will be saluted as of the liberating army of Tennessee.

Heaven, with justice, your mothers, wives, children and sisters, call upon you to be firm and loyal. I ask no higher honor than to be your leader, and I only ask it because I know you will follow where honor and duty call. S. R. ANDERISON, Brigadier General.

By G. P. Smith, Aid-de-Camp.

IMPORTANT FROM ALABAMA.

One Hundred Miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Held by Union Troops.

FLIGHT OF THE REBELS ALONG THE ROUTE

The Rebel Communication Between the South and Southwest Effectually Cut Off, &c..

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1862. The following despatch has been received by the Secre

tary of War, dated Namiville, Tenn., April 14, 1862. On Saturday morning two expeditions were started from Huntsville in the cars. One, under Colonel Sill, of the Thirty-third Ohio, went east to Stevenson, the junction of the Chattanooga with the Memphis and Charlestor Railroad, which point they seized, two thousand of the enemy retreating without firing a shot. Colonel Sill captured five locomotives and a large amount of rolling

time to save the railroad bridge, which was in flames. General Mitchell new holds one hundred miles of th femphis and Charleston Railroad.

AFFAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC.

Explorations at Aquia and Potoms firmation of the Reported Retreat of the Rebels from the Rappahannock.

tenant Commanding McCrea, visited Aquia creek. A boat's crew was sent ashore, and landed at the water battery, which was found abandoned. The long wharf had been destroyed, but the railroad depot was uninured. The track had been torn up and the rails and standing. All stores of every description had been re moved. The battery is admirably constructed. It con-tains five embrasures, with conveniences for mounting a pivot gun, and a bombproof and magazine. The gung

On leaving Aquia creek the Jacob Bell proceeded Potomac creek, where another landing was made. The best battery yet seen on the banks of the river was embrasures, for sweeping guns. The intrenchments were formidable. The landing party encountered some of the ebel pickets. The seamen gave chase to them; but find ing they were being drawn beyond the range of the

Jacob Bell's guns, they were ordered to return.

On Saturday morning the Jacob Bell cast anchor within cannon shot of the water battery at Potomac creek. nother battery was seen in the rear, on a high hill When the landing party were a little more than half was to the battery, a large barge, with about twenty men in is, was seen pulling across the creek towards the point on which the battery is creeted, furthest from the steamer. The whistle was sounded as a signal for the return of the party. Subsequently a boat's crew went ashere at a farm bouse lower down went ashere at a farm bouse lower down They were joined by several negroes, who escorted them to the farm buildings, which were found in charge of a negro man and woman. The blacks said they had seen three rebel pickets, one of whom was mounted,

While they were talking some more negrees came in reporting that they were from the neighborhood or ksburg. They confirmed the various reports o the rebel troops being beyond that place, and said the bridge leading thereto had not been destroyed. They stated that there are rebel troops at King George's Court House. These men were in great fear of being taken, alleging that they had been threatened to wanted to be taken on board the steamer; but Mr. Street acting Master, was not authorized to take them.

While the party was on shore several of the rebe pickets were seen standing on the brow of a hill. Cap ain McCrea sent a shell from his 32-pounder after them which made them fall as if struck by lightning.

Boston, April 14, 1862.
The schooner Helen, from Messina for Philadelphia was abandoned at sea on the 11th uit. Her crow taken off by the ship Marshdeld, and landed at Bath, Me., on the 12th inst.

OPERATIONS OF THE MERRIMAC.

Her Second Appearance in Hampton Roads.

Interesting Description of Her Manœuvres,

FORTRES MONROE, April 13, 1862. The Merrimac remained in the same position all day esterday until evening, when, together with the rest of the rebel fleet, she returned to Norsolk. She

generally supposed to have been aground.

None of the rebel fleet have shown themselves to-day Several captains of vessels in port testify, in relation own, that they were ordered to move either outside of

ortress Monroe or inside of Hampton bar. The United States schooner Haze sails for Hatterss this afternoon, with the mails and passengers.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1862. A private despatch, dated Fortress Monroe last night at ten o'clock, received here this morning, represents that there was clear moonlight and all quiet in that

Our Fortress Monroe Correspo FORTHERS MONBOR, April 12, 1862. te Reappearance of the Merrimac—Preparations of the Union Vessels to Meet Her—Orders to Act on the Defen sive—Activity in the Bay—Poor Practice of the Merri mac's Gunt—Sudden Death of a Soldier, &c., &c.

The long expected reappearance of the rebel steame: Merrimac occurred yesterday morning. After a lapse o nearly five weeks in repairing damages sustained by her engagement with the Monitor, she returned to the toads from Norfolk at seven P. M. yesterday, accompanied by her consorts, the Patrick Henry, Yorktown, Teazer, Raleigh and Empire. The visit would no doubt ha been made earlier, as the rebel fleet were at anchor for several days previous, but the prevalence of the north easterly gale, which lasted three days, and only termin

This morning the sun peeped out of the he and soon illumined a clear sky; a slight haze was perceptible on the water, which for a short obscured the vision, but at seven A. M. it cleared up, and instanter the rebel fleet was seen

sted last night, prevented it.

abreast of Sewall's Point. The announcement of the approach of the rebels created no little excitement, as at the time their fleet appeared running directly for this point. The signal gun at the fortress was fired, and in a few minutes the garrison was under arms; and the artillerists, composed of detachments of the Naval brirade and Wisconsin artillery, soon after manned the guns on the parapet of the fortress. The large fleet of Union chooner transports which was anchored in the Roads, on seeing the rebel fleet, slipped their moorings, and avored by wind and tide, were soon out of harm's way, Many of those in Hampton Cove, restricted by the narrow and serpentine channels, not being able to get out of the way of thomselves, were assisted by the steamture, of has been anxiously awaiting the reappearance of the Merrimac, on seeing the latter approach got ready for action by clearing her decks, lowering her smoke and steam pipes, slipping her anchor, and in less than ten minutes was ready for action. The orders from Flag officer Goldsborough were, however, to act strictly on

the defensive, and to give buttle only when the rebe craft should approach a given point. The Merrimac and her consorts meanwhile had approached to within four miles of the fortress, and there she stopped, having as it afterwards proved, a certain boundary, withouthe range of the guns of the fort, over which she would not pass. The French war steamer Catinet, which was anchored near the Monitor when the Merrimac hove is sight, and was taking water from a Union schooner, took up her anab and, taking the schooner under the protection of her flag, proceeded to a point between here and Newport's News, where she had already been preceded by the Fren war steamer Gassandi and the British steam The steam transports State of Maine, Mystic, South Ame rice and others, with troops, were in the harbor, but soon moved to a haven of safety out of the range of the threatened point. The Monitor, in her defensive attitude, joined by the Stevens battery Naugatuck, steam ed around in the Roads, at times showing their broadsides defiantly at the robel fleet. The robel fleet seemed to take a cowardly advantage of the presence of the oreign vessels in the Roads, and kept continually under their cover, so that had our policy been on the offensive we could not have fired a shot at the rebels without en dangering the neutral vessels. I alluded to the position of these foreign vessels in a former letter, and the ne-cessity of their removal to another point; but the flag officer in charge here has displayed a judgment in the case which merits a public condemnation. Things re mained pretty much in statu que, the rebel fleet be and filling, at times running up to the Merrimac for or. ders and then steaming away. At nine o'clock A. M. the rebel gunboat Patrick Renry left the fleet and ran into on Cove by the inside channel, leading from Newher position; and others supposed the rebel steamer had hostile designs on the federal camp at Hampton (Cam) Hamilton). The sequel to the problem was soon dis covered when the robel craft, subsequently joined by the robel steamer Teazer, were seen cutting out two Union brigs and a schooner which were at anchor about two miles from shore. The affair was deeply humili

ating, and no efforts were made by our fleet to prevent the outrage until after the rebel steamers were escaping ir prizes and under full headway for Norfolk when the gunboats Octarors and Naugatuck were sent up

The Patrick Henry towed her prizes to Norfolk, and re. turned to join the rebel fleet shortly after twelve M. A large number of rebel excursionists on steamers followed the fleet down from Norfolk to see the fun; but they were doomed to disappointment, as no fight occurred up to five P. M., up to which time the rebel fleet confined themselves to the bounds established by them in the morning. At this time the Monitor is at her old moerings, but ready for action at any moment. The flagship did not approach the threatened scene of conflict, but was an-chored several miles down the bay. from which point all orders had to be communicated. General Wool, with his staff, was busy throughout the day, making the most ample preparation to guard against and meet the assaults

The Merrimac and her rebel consorts returned Norfolk from the Roads at half-past five o'clock last evening, without having induced our fleet, including the Monitor, to give them battle on unequal grounds. Be, fore leaving, however, she exchanged a few shots, at long range, with the Union gunboats Octarora and Stevens' battery Naugatuck, the latter lying at anchor Hampton Cove. The practice of the Merrimac was very poor, her best gun not throwing a shot over three miles her opponents threw shot over three and one-hal niles—the Naugatuck, with her superior one hundred bound Parrott gun, throwing even further. I apprehe rom the movements of the rebel fleet, that they are de ermined to confine their operations within such bound as to easily run under cover of the batteries wheever the tide of battle seems against them. I not concur in the opinion of some people, that the Merrimac intends to run the blockade. Such a step would be highly injudicious to rebe interests, and would at once open the channel for the Union forces to Norfolk and to Richmond via the James river. The Merrimac will confine herself to Norfolk and Yorktown, commit such petty thefts as stealing such small craft as stray away from the protection of the guns

of the fortress, was thought that in all probability they would again venture est to make a moonlight attack. To be ready to repel aby much assault the land and naval authorities made ample preparation. The night was secencly beau tiful; the water in the Roads as placed as Como, and as light as bounday. Instead of hearing the whiz of hostile missiles of the enemy, the quiet of the night was agreeably broken by the performance of one of the The sweet strains of "Oft in the Stilly Night, The Macking Bird." and selections from "S filled the nir far and near, and charmed and cheered the heart of many a brave soldier who, in all probability will never more enjoy the comforts of home.

At eight o'clock this morning the Merrimac and he rts were again espied coming down from Norfolk

They pursued their course, with black columns of smoke curling out of their pipes, and the dirty looking "Stars and Bars" flying from their staffs. While watching them intently through a first rate telescope, I observed the Merrimac, as she was passing the north point of Craney Island, came suddenly to a stop. In a few minutes the whole rebel fleet gathered about her like chickens about an old hen. I at once opined that she had grounded, and for several hours I intently observed her, but she did not budge an inch; and up to this hour, half-past four P. M., she still remains in her stationary position. Indeed some persons, with probably better occular organs than I have, positively assure me that they could see her wooden hull for two feet below her iron armor. If this was so, there never was nor will there be a better opportunity to give her her quietus. Indeed, the officers of the Monitor were anxious to try the experiment; but longer heads than theirs—whether any better judges I very much doubt-would not listen to the propos There was quite a little fracas yesterday within the

ment and the post sutler, named Moody. The loyalty of Moody has always been doubted by those who know him and his antecedents best. Yesterday he was indulging in a see free use of sentiments of doubtful loyalty, when one of the soldiers, a listener, heard him; he said, "I came here to fight traitors," and, suiting the action to the word, knocked Moody down and gave him a first rate whipping. Everybody here applauds the action.

At eleven o'clock a private of Company D. Sixth reginent New York State cavalry, which had just lande named Edward Bannan, while watching the manouvre of the rebel steamer Merrimac and fleet, from the long dock, was seen dropping on his knees suddenly. A num-ber of his comrades went to his assistance, and on raising him found that life was extinct. Deceased had died from apoplexy. Bannan was a native of Troy, and about thirty-five years of age. He leaves a family unprovided

walls of the fortress, between a soldier of the Tenth regi-

FORTRESS MONROE, April 13, 1862.

The names of the captured vessels are as follows Brig Sabao, Captain David Baker, of Cape Cod, Mass. This vessel came into this port laden with hay, consigned to Colonel Ingals, United States Quarterman Army of the Potomac, and had not as yet discharged her freight. Captain Baker also had a quantity of lumber on poard, which he brought on private speculation.

Brig Marcus, Captain Charles E. Crockett, of Stockton Maine, had as freight the horses, artillery and equipments of Captain Bates' New York Empire battery, which had been discharged yesterday at Newport's News, and the vessel was lying off in ballast to be out of the way of the shipping.

Schooner Emily, Captain Shriver, laden with sumore stores; no part thereof discharged. All these vessels and the greater portion of the crew were taken prisoners. Sabao lost six men, named as follows:-

non Crowell, mate. P. Hickson, a H. Baker, see

Captain Baker had left his vessel, a short time prior to the coming out of the Yorktown, to make arrangements for the discharge of his cargo, and thereby esca ture. He owned one-half of the vessel, which sured. The brig Marcus had but two men aboard, named Joseph P. Leonard, second mate, and Levi Butler, stew. ard, who were unable to escape from the vessel. The remainder of the crew made good their way to the shore it small boats.

The captain and three men of the schooner Emily are prisoners in the hands of the rebels. Their names I have

To a great extent the fault of the capture of these ves sels lies with the commanders thereof. Captain Millward the harbor master, had warned them of the impendi danger likely to result from remaining in their exp tion. Every possible craft having steam was a available by Captain Millward to tow the sailing vessely out, and the above named were the only captures m

Our Newport's News Correspondence FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVESON,
DEFARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
NEWFORT'S NEWS, Va., April 11, 1862. Reappearance of the Merrimac, with Six Other Rebel Steamers—Three Vessels Carried Off by the Patrick Henry—The Rebel Flost Goes Back in the Bouning

Without Showing Bight, dc., dc.
This day has indeed been a puzzle to all of us in this samp. At half-past seven o'clock this morning Lieut. Ayres, commander of our signal corps, sent a message to Gen. Mansfield, informing him of the approach from Jamestown, the Teazer, and three other gunboats we came down to the Signal Point (where there is a bend the James river) we had a fine sight of the whole rebel fleet, as it moved slowly up towards Sewall's Point. The weather was delightfully clear and warm, and nothing tended to obscure the view of the grand battle

which we all eagerly expected to take place.

The three foreign men-of-war—two French and one
English—were lying between Sewall's Point and Fore Wool, as far as we could see, about midway (forming a perfect shield to the rebel steamers); and many and se vere comments were passed upon them for this unac-countable, and, in our opinion, highly improper mode of

At nine o'clock the Patrick Henry passed over towards Hampton creek, within easy range of our guns, and carried off three vessels lying at anchor there. They were afterwards handed over to another and smalle rebel steamer and towed off to Norfolk. This, with the exception of three or four harmless shots exchanged in the afternoon, formed the whole of the remarks ceedings of this day; and now (at half-past five o'clock) are all lying quietly behind Craney Island.

The whole movement on both sides is a pr pointment in not having the question, whether the Merrimac really is our ruler or not, brought to a final test.
However, the powers that be no doubt know what ought
and what ought not to be done, and so we have, as yet,
no rightto grumble.

During the whole day the roof of the Merrimac was
crowded with people who were evidently enjoying the
plessure trip. The Monitor was lying quietly among the
shipping at Old Point, but, of course, ready at any moment to make a dash when the proper opportunity ofent in not having the question, whether the Mer

fered.

The fact of the rebel fleet being so unpleasantly near to us has out off all communication by water between Fortress Monroe and this post, and our mail and express facilities have to suffer in consequence.

The weather is delightfully mild and springlike, and our men are in the best of spirits.

A bas as secsal.

FIRST BRIGADS, FIRST DIVESON DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA, NEWPORT'S NEWS, Va., April 12, 1852. The Rebel Steamers Lying All Day Quietly Of Se

Point, de. reported moving off from Crancy Island, and at nine they had again taken up their old position between that island and Sewall's Point, the Merrimac being in the advance.
Up to the present writing (seven P. M.) there are no signs of any forward—or backward—movement on their part. It is evident that their real intention is to run the blockade and go up York river to destroy our fleet of Yorktown; and we can now understand what the proba-ble reason was that the Monitor did not interfere when the Patrick Henry took the three vessels out of Hamp-

the Patrick Henry sook the three vames out or Hamp-ton creek yesterday. The moment the Monitor had gone over towards Hampton creek the Merrimac, which was lying near Fort Wool, would have tried to run into the channel that leads out of the Rada. We have now established a daily overland mail to Fortress Monroe, and as the roads are rapidly improving during these fine spring days, the absence of communi-cation by water is not felt very severely.

NEWS FROM GENERAL BANKS' ARMY.

Woonsrock, Va., April 14, 1862. A party of Ashby's cavalry, said to number two co panies, attacked a body of infantry at the railroad bridge yesterday, east of Strasburg. A squadron of the Veront cavalry were called out, but no enemy was seen

One hundred rebel cavalry have been seen across the countain, near this place.

EDENBURG, April 14, 1862 where a body of cavalry, infantry and artillery are sta

tioned to protect foraging parties, two rebel cavalry and infantry men have been captured and brought in.

The rebels are firing at our pickets constantly, but are not replied to. The Provest Marshal at Edenburg came. very near being shot by them this morning.

Brigadier General Hatch and his staff of cavary have

ust arrived from Warren. A salute has been ordered in celebration of the re-

ictories to-day. The chaplains observed the events in an appropriate namer on the Sabbath in their different regiments.